

**Council on Postsecondary Education
January 30, 2006**

Center for Mathematics

ACTION: The staff recommends that the Council award the contract for the Center for Mathematics to Northern Kentucky University. The Council staff also recommends that the Council authorize the Council staff to work with Northern Kentucky University and the University of Louisville to develop a collaborative effort to design the intervention and diagnostic functions of the center in the primary grades and to conduct research on the effectiveness of the center's programs.

In response to House Bill 93 (KRS 164.525), signed into law in March 2005, the Council issued a request for proposals for the location of the Center for Mathematics at one of Kentucky's eight public postsecondary institutions. As a result of that RFP, the Council received proposals from Northern Kentucky University and the University of Louisville. A thorough review of these proposals was conducted by a committee consisting of representatives from the Kentucky Department of Education, Kentucky Adult Education, the Education Professional Standards Board, the Council staff, and a nationally recognized mathematics scholar from outside Kentucky. Input into the RFP was solicited and received from the Committee for Mathematics Achievement and the commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education as required by KRS 164.525 (2).

NKU's proposal was evaluated slightly higher in the initial review. Council staff believed that due diligence called for in-depth interviews with representatives from each institution. Evaluations following these interviews again identified NKU's as the stronger overall proposal.

To that end, Council staff recommends that NKU be awarded the contract for the Center for Mathematics. NKU will serve as the center's clearinghouse and coordinator of professional development in the state. In addition, NKU will administer the demonstration sites at each public university called for by House Bill 93. NKU also will coordinate the coaching and mentoring models implemented in Kentucky. NKU will serve as the lead disseminator to all constituencies for information flowing from the center. NKU will be responsible for procuring an external evaluator to gauge the effectiveness of the center's operations as a whole.

The Council staff also recommends that the Council authorize the Council staff to work with NKU and UofL to develop a collaborative effort to design the intervention and diagnostic functions of the center in the primary grades and to conduct research on the effectiveness of the center's programs.

The Council staff believes that this collaborative effort will take advantage of particular strengths at each institution, resulting in increased student achievement in mathematics in Kentucky.